

at least one winding for conducting welding current, said first and second pole pieces each having
and end surface, said air gap defined between said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces,
5 each end surfaces including two outer edges and a middle portion positioned there between, at least
one of said middle portions being substantially V-shaped, said air gap having a width between said
middle portions of said first and second pole pieces that is greater than a width between either of said
outer edges of said first and second pole pieces, said air gap having a configuration which results in
said inductance of said choke gradually changing with an output current of the welder without
10 saturation in said air gap thereby eliminating inflection points during operation of said welder, said
at least one winding and said core having a size to prevent saturation at a weld current of at least
about 100 amperes.

30. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 29, wherein both said middle
portions being substantially V-shaped.

31. (Twice Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 29, wherein said air gap is
substantially diamond shaped.

33. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 29, wherein said middle portions
of said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces having substantially the same shape.

40. (Twice Amended) An output choke for a D.C. arc welder having an inductance and
adapted to include at least one winding for conducting current, said output choke comprising a high

D3⁵
(cont)

permeability core having first and second pole pieces and an inductance controlling air gap, said first and second pole pieces each having an end surface, said air gap defined between said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces, each of said end surfaces including outer edges and a middle portion positioned there between, at least one of said middle portions being substantially V-shaped, said air gap having a width between said middle portions of said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces that is greater than a width between at least one pair of said outer edges of said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces, said air gap having a configuration which results in said inductance of said choke changing with an output current of the welder without saturation in said air gap thereby substantially eliminating inflection points during operation of said welder.

D4

46. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 40, wherein said at least a portion of the middle portion of said corresponding end surfaces being spaced apart at a varying distance to substantially gradually vary the inductance of said choke over substantially a complete current range of said choke.

D5

54. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 53, wherein said outer edges of said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces being spaced apart at substantially the same distance.

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58. (Twice Amended) An output choke for a D.C. arc welder having an inductance and adapted to include at least one winding for conducting current, said output choke comprising a high permeability core having first and second pole pieces and an inductance controlling air gap, said air

gap defined by an end surface on said first and second pole pieces, at least a portion of said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces being spaced from one another and facing one another, said end surfaces of said first and second pole pieces each having outer edges and a middle portion between said outer edges, at least a portion of the middle portion of said corresponding end surfaces being spaced apart at a varying distance to vary the inductance of said choke over a current range, said air gap having a converging width that at least partially converges toward said outer edges, at least a portion of said air gap having a width that is greater than the spacing between either the [inner and] outer edges of said first and second pole pieces, said middle portions having a configuration to substantially prevent inflection points along a saturation curve of said choke.

59. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 58, wherein said middle portions having substantially non-perpendicular oriented surfaces.

62. (Amended)The output choke as defined in claim 58, wherein at least one of said middle portions being substantially V-shaped.

64. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 58, wherein at least one of said middle portions being substantially arcuate shaped.

68. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 58, wherein said at least a portion of the middle portion of said corresponding end surfaces being spaced apart at a varying distance to

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substantially gradually vary the inductance of said choke over substantially a complete current range
of said choke.

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77. (Amended) The output choke as defined in claim 58, wherein said output choke
adapted to charge a capacitor.

Add the following new claims:

Rule 1.126
D10
11. 78. An output choke for a D.C. arc welder having an inductance comprising a high
permeability core having first and second pole pieces and an inductance controlling air gap, said first
and second pole pieces each having an end surface, said air gap defined between said end surfaces
of said first and second pole pieces, each of said end surfaces including two outer edges and a middle
portion positioned there between, each of said middle portions being substantially V-shaped to form
a substantially diamond shaped air gap between said middle portions, said air gap having a
configuration and being spaced apart at a varying distance resulting in said inductance of said choke
changing with an output current of the welder without saturation in said air gap thereby substantially
eliminating inflection points during operation of said welder and substantially gradually varying the
inductance of said choke over substantially a complete current range of said choke.

12. 78. 11
The output choke as defined in claim 78, wherein said diamond shaped air gap is
substantially symmetrical.

^{80.}~~87.~~ The output choke as defined in claim ⁷⁹~~85~~, wherein said choke includes at least one winding for conducting welding current, said at least one winding and said core having a sufficient size to prevent saturation at a weld current of at least about 100 amperes.

^{81.}~~88.~~ The output choke as defined in claim ⁷¹~~78~~, wherein said air gap has a configuration that causes said inductance of said choke to gradually vary over a current range in an inverse relationship with a weld current.

D10 Cont
^{82.}~~89.~~ The output choke as defined in claim ⁸⁰~~87~~, wherein said air gap has a configuration that causes said inductance of said choke to gradually vary over a current range in an inverse relationship with a weld current.

^{83.}~~90.~~ The output choke as defined in claim ⁷¹~~78~~, wherein said air gap is filled with a low permeability material.

^{84.}~~91.~~ The output choke as defined in claim ⁸²~~89~~, wherein said air gap is filled with a low permeability material.



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